

# Weekly Update

Friday 6th March 2020



Hello Families and Friends.

It was an absolute pleasure to be asked to visit the learning log gallery in Oak Class this week. The children earned extra merits and playtime for the supreme efforts that have gone into their homework. Thank you for your support.

We have also noted an increase in reading, and it is a vital aspect of homework. Building reading into a child's daily routine supports their reasoning and critical thinking skills as well as their ability to access all subjects across a broad curriculum. All studies show this and so we incentivise this in school too, with our house point system. Your comments in reading diaries help us to support the children well.

I am very pleased to share with you all that we have appointed the new Chestnut teacher. Lucy Jenkins will be joining us formally after Easter, but has offered to come in for a coffee morning with parents before we break up, as well as come in to meet the children. We have also appointed a maternity cover teacher, Stephanie Miller, for when Mrs Adams officially finishes. I am sure you will join me in welcoming our new teachers to our happy staff team.

In addition, we have recently made 6 new teaching assistant appointments. This is to ensure that the new plans for children with additional needs, that are funded, can be delivered. We had a visit this week from our school improvement partner, and our support and systems for children with needs were praised as a strength of the school. If you haven't been to one of our coffee mornings yet, do join us.



I am writing this week's newsletter to you early because, as many of you know, I am joining Year 4 on their exciting residential to the Frontier Centre. The excitement in school has been palpable.

We held World Book Day early, so everyone could take part before we headed off. I attach some photos in this newsletter of our special day and I hope your children came back even more enthused about the books they enjoyed.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Finch



## Values

The values from February 24th—March 13th are **Courage** and **Determination**.

*Book Week falls in this section. This is also time of 'Lent'.*

*Courage when you least feel like trying. Not giving up. Knowing it is worth it, if not immediately , then in the long run. Courage when you are a lone voice in the crowd, when peer pressure is high etc.*

## Letter to Sri Lanka

Year 3 took a trip to the post box last week to deliver a letter and book to our partner school in Kandy, Sri Lanka. The children carried out a democratic vote beforehand in assembly to choose their favourite book based on environmental awareness. We have asked our partner school to read the book and send us their thoughts. We will keep you updated!



## Music News

In their class assembly, the whole of Oak class showed us what they have been learning on the ocarina. William played his guitar and the Oak class recorder players performed a number of pieces.

In our music assemblies this week we enjoyed listening to the choir sing “Pancakes go up!” for Pancake Day and “I like Books” for World Book Day. Also, lovely playing from Matthew B (piano), Ellie (clarinet), Enya, Aaliyah and Abigail (flute).

This is a busy time for our recorder players as we are beginning to prepare for our music medal assessments. Music Medals are teacher-led assessments for younger learners. They build on what's already taught in group lessons and enable students to gain recognition for their hard work. There are five progressive levels. Copper and Bronze are stepping stones to Grade 1. Silver, Gold and Platinum reward further progress. Over the next few weeks children will be bringing home a letter with all the relevant details. In the meantime, it would really help all children if they are encouraged to do just a few minutes practice at home, several times a week.



## **Book Fair**

We're really excited to be welcoming back Primary Books Book Fair on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th March. Children will be visiting the book fair within their classes and will be able to look at and purchase books. Envelopes for any money you wish to give your child for the book fair were sent home last week.



Every child will also be receiving their World Book Day voucher when their class visits the book fair. They may use this to purchase one of this year's selection of £1.00 World Book Day books (please see link below) or they can use it to put towards the purchase of a full price book. <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>

## **Savers is Closing!**

The Bedford Credit Union (BCU) has written to us to say after careful review of their operations, they have concluded that they can not support School Savers Clubs anymore. The last Savers Club will be **Thursday 26th March 2020**. If the children want to continue to save in to their accounts with BCU, they can do so by going directly to BCU to set up a standing order. Alternatively, they can close their accounts and have the balance transferred in to a bank account. Forms for this will be sent out. If completed forms are returned by Thursday 26th March, the savers team can send them to BCU otherwise you will need to organise your child's account yourself. Thank you to everyone for all of their support.

The Savers Team





All clubs for this half term have now started; please see the timetable below. If your child no longer requires a place, please let the school office know so this can be given to someone else.

**Monday**

***Year 1 PE Club - 3.20pm—4.30pm***

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

**Tuesday**

***Year 3 & 4 Technology Club—Lunchtime***

w/c 24/02/20—23/03/20

***Year 2 PE Club—3.20pm—4.30pm***

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

***Mid Beds Soccer (External Club)***

w/c 06/01/20—10/02/20

(Booking form attached)

**Wednesday**

***Year 1-4 Multi Skills Club—8.00am—8.50am***

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

***Year 3 & 4 Mindfulness Club—Lunchtime***

w/c 24/02/20—23/03/20

***Year 3 PE Club—3.20pm—4.30pm***

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

**Thursday**

***Year 3 & 4 Press Club—Lunchtime***

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

***Year 3 & 4 Science Club (Invite Only) - 3.20pm—4.00pm***

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

***Year 1 & 2 Dance Club—3.20pm—4.00pm***

w/c 24/02/20—23/03/20

***Year 4 PE Club—3.20pm—4.30pm***

w/c 13/01/20—23/03/20

***Happy Little Yogi (External Club) - 3.30pm—4.30pm***

w/c 24/02/20—30/03/20

(Booking form attached)

**Friday**

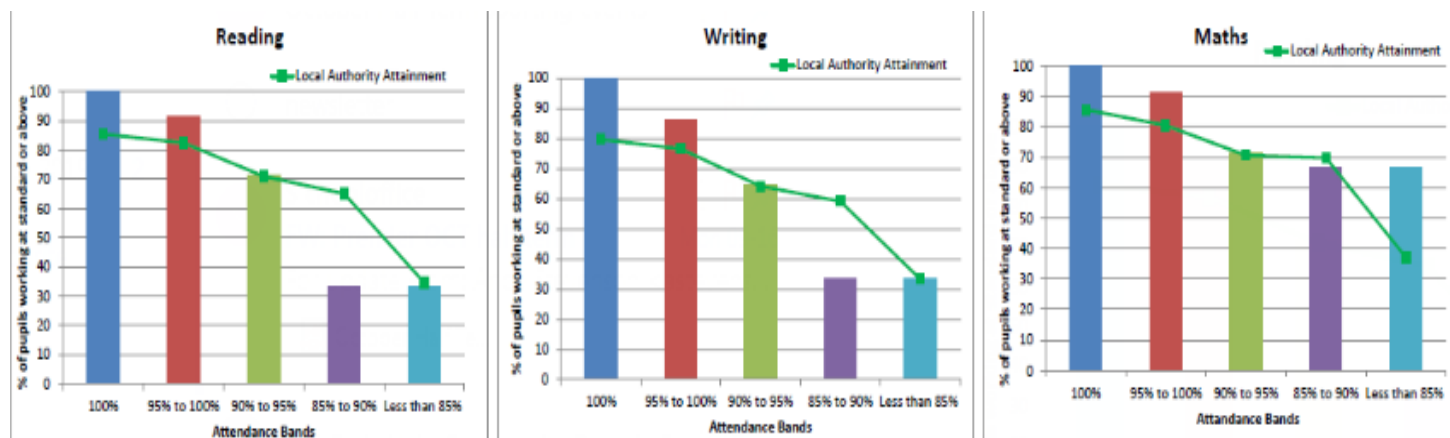
***Little Ninja's (External Club) - 3.20pm—4.00pm***

w/c 13/01/20—30/03/20

## Absence

Please see the graph below on this years SATS results in relation to attendance.

Please see the list below of exceptional circumstances in which a holiday may be authorised. Just a reminder the school office will need proof of all medical appointments for absences to be marked as 'Medical' otherwise these will be marked as 'Unauthorised'.



### **Exceptional circumstances that may be agreed to are:**

A dying close relative in a different country.

A family funeral of a close relative in another country/ part of the country.

Holidays for fostering or adoption purposes.

Religious observance.

Holidays for armed services personnel when meeting the criteria set out by the ministry of defence.

When a family needs to spend time together to support each other during or after a crisis

Where disability means it is difficult for the family to organise care at another time.

### **Exceptional circumstances do not include:**

Being unable to take a family holiday during the 6 week summer break

The availability of cheap holidays

Poor weather experienced during school holiday periods

Overlap with the beginning or end of a term.

Different holiday dates for siblings in different schools.

A surprise booked by another person/ treat for the child

A mistake in term dates when booking

## Finer Diners

Congratulations to the children below who have sat at the 'Finer Diner' table this week for displaying good manners and values at lunchtime:

### Reception

Amelia R  
Forrest H  
Sofya C  
Livvy B  
Reagan B  
Zoe R

### Year 1

Freya G  
Tommy NP  
Rory M  
Ella R

EXCUSE ME



THANK YOU

### Year 2

Arianna M  
Charlie A  
Freddie W  
Olivia E

### Year 3

Bailey S  
Charlie G  
Amia N  
Jessica R  
Pippa C  
Harrison S

# PSA News



## Family Games Night—Friday 28th February

A massive thank you to all the families that supported this event. I'm sure you will agree it was great fun with loads of exciting prizes. Special thanks must go to our local compere Steve C who did a cracking job for us on the night and his rendition of 'baby shark' will stay with many of us for some time! We raised over £500.00 and must also thank all of our local sponsors who donated prizes, the Lemon Plaice for providing a hot meal for everyone and of course for all our volunteers who gave up their time to arrange and support the evening.

We are holding our AGM next Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March in the staff room. Our current Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will be stepping down making room for a new committee to be appointed. Events like the above cannot take place without the commitment from individuals who are willing to support the schools fundraising and provide our children with extra curricular items and support educational needs such as the recent installation of the Immersive Room available to all teachers and a superb learning resource for all students.

If you can spare some hours each month in order for the PSA to continue fundraising and supporting the school then please come along to our AGM next week.

## Coming up

- **AGM – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March** – open to all parents/legal guardians of children currently attending the school
- **Sponsored Bounce – Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Mar**—Consent and sponsor forms have been sent out!

## Your school Lottery – EVERY Saturday

Shefford Lower school has a guaranteed winner *EVERY WEEK*.

Tickets can be purchased at any time. Signing up this term will automatically enrol you into a further prize draw to win organic fruit and veg for one year **PLUS** the chance to win the national **£25,000.00** weekly jackpot. It's easy to set up. <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play> Good luck. This is an ongoing offer and you can set up anytime you like. Remember the more tickets purchased the higher the prize fund



## Community News

***Please note, the following events/activities are run independently of Shefford Lower.***



We can help with benefits, housing, debt, disabilities, law, immigration, education, employment, relationships & more.

**[www.AdviceCentral.org.uk](http://www.AdviceCentral.org.uk)**

**Call 0300 303 6666**



## Merfolk sighted in Herts

*Ever wondered what it would be like to swim with a tail?  
Now is your chance. Be magically transformed into a mermaid or merman  
and explore the underwater world! \**

**Classes 🐚 Experiences 🐚 Parties**

\* Available to those who are 6+ and competent swimmers

**Venue:** Hilltop Pool, Clophill **Date:** Sunday 15th March 2020



[www.merworldswimschool.co.uk](http://www.merworldswimschool.co.uk) | 07429 569276

[victoria\\_barker@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:victoria_barker@hotmail.co.uk) | [@mermaidswimmingherts](https://www.instagram.com/mermaidswimmingherts)





# Diary Dates

(further dates will be added and these will be in ***bold italics***)

Spring Term 2020	
10th March	Book Fair
11th March	Book Fair
12th March	Pear Class Assembly 2.45pm
13th March	Ash Class Assembly 2.45pm
16th March	Year 2 Titanic Day
16th March	Year 3 Egyptian Day
17th March	Year 4 Faith Tour
20th March	Plum Class Assembly 2.45pm
27th March	Beech Class Assembly 2.45pm
30th March	PSA Sponsored Bounce
<b><i>31st March</i></b>	<b><i>Swimming Finishes for Cedar &amp; Hawthorn</i></b>
<b><i>2nd April</i></b>	<b><i>Swimming Finishes for Elm</i></b>
6th April—19th April	Easter
20th April	Inset Day

Summer Term 2020	
21st April	Children Return to School
26th April	PSA Table Top Sale
29th April	Class Photos
1st May	Holly Assembly 2.45pm
6th May	Bag 2 School
6th May	Year 4 Bikeability
8th May	Bank Holiday
22nd May	Willow Assembly 2.45pm
25th May	Bank Holiday
26th—31st May	Half Term
1st June	Children Return to School
8th June	Road Safety Week
11th June	Year 3 Sing Out Play Out Concert at The Corn Exchange
12th June	Chestnut Class Assembly 2.45pm
15th June	Reception Open Evening
22nd June	Cherry Open Evening
24th June	EYFS Sports Day
25th June	KS2 Sports Day AM, KS1 Sports Day PM
<b>3rd July</b>	<b>Move Up Day</b>
15th July	Year 4 Leavers' Performance and Afternoon Tea
17th July	End of Term